

**DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 27, 2010
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: **Ernie Doizaki, Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Mark Shinbane, and Paul Vert.**

Absent: **Richard Gardner, Don Kanner, Richard Meruelo, Alex Palermo, Bill Shinbane, and Michael Tansey.**

STAFF: **Herlinda Chico, Raquel King, Estela Lopez, Celina Mancia and Vicky McCormick.**

CONSULTANTS: **Ken Coelho and Don Steier.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Rauch called the meeting to order with a quorum at 9:17am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

H. Klein made a motion to approve the June 22, 2010 minutes, and M. Klein seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE

Coelho reported that it was a good collection month in June; the BID collected \$710,000 in assessment revenue. Coelho stated that expenses are in line with the budget, however, the BID is over budget \$8,500 on the security contract due to a timing difference; six weeks of invoices were paid.

Coelho reported that the BID has a little over \$900,000 in the bank. Year-end cash projection including \$92,000 in delinquency and \$50,000 reserve results in positive cash at year-end.

Coelho reported that in the gross assessment revenue column of the financial report \$128,000 is the total receivable. The BID is still owed \$160,000 for 2009 assessments, and \$129,000 for 2010. there's \$67,000 in prior funds, and \$90,000 in prior BID funds.

V. OPERATIONS

Mancia reported that BID public safety officers handled/responded to 1,041 incidents in June. There were 91 illegal dumping incidents, most prevalent on Agatha & San Pedro, and 4th & Crocker Streets.

McCormick added that the public feedings also contributed to the illegal dumping numbers due to the trash left behind. McCormick informed the Board that CCEA is meeting with City Departments to address the illegal dumping issue associated with the public feedings.

Mancia informed the Board that tenants who move out of the area also have a bad habit of leaving personal unwanted items on the sidewalks. Mancia reported that the LA City Bureau of Public Works has amended the illegal dumping ordinance to include stricter enforcement and penalties. The amended ordinance states that a person must be caught dumping, however, identifiers linking people or businesses to the dumping is acceptable. Property owners can be held liable for tenant dumpings. BID public safety officers will receive illegal dumping enforcement training from Street Services.

McCormick reported that the number of trash bags collected in June decreased compared to prior months. McCormick expressed that LAPD Senior Lead Officer Jack Richter holds the merchants accountable for keeping their area clean.

McCormick informed the Board that there was a murder on 5th & Maple Streets near LAPD Central Division. The alleged suspect has been identified, and is still on the run. The shooting is allegedly gang related, and the alleged suspect is a parolee.

1 Hour Parking Restrictions:

King reported that 1 hour parking restrictions have been installed on Crocker Street between 5th & 6th Streets. King informed the Board that she sent a request letter to the LADOT requesting restrictions be installed on that block. Previously there were no restrictions on that block, and as a result cars parked around the clock were involved in drug sales and prostitution. The BID received complaints from stakeholders daily regarding the illegal activity going on, as well as the issue of lack of parking for their employees and customers. King stated that she met strong opposition from a couple of stakeholders on that block, however, 50% of the stakeholders signed a petition asking for the restrictions, and the City implemented the restrictions one year after the request.

LADID Parking Study:

King reported that during the data collection process the consultants performed a parking inventory of the number of off-street/on-street spaces, and parking regulations. There was also a field survey performed of parking occupancy during four time periods of the day; 6-9am, 9am-noon, noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm. The consultants also met with stakeholders in the district to survey their concerns and issues with the parking situation. Stakeholder concerns include a shortage of on-site parking for businesses, shortage of on-site parking for residents and visitors, illegal storage of vehicles, and inconsistent and confusing on-street parking regulations and Street Sweeper program.

Other observations include damaged parking regulation signs, vacant parking lots that are closed or fenced off, and a need for better enforcement and coordination from the LADOT and LAPD.

Preliminary ideas include overnight parking prohibition, residents parking permits, additional parking meters, BID security deputized to write parking citations, change parking regulations for consistency, and provide more employee transportation options. The next phase includes meeting with the permit parking and enforcement departments of the LADOT to discuss the preliminary ideas and get feedback. The final phases will include a community meeting and the draft report to be presented to the Community Redevelopment Agency, CCEA, LAPD and LADOT.

Parking Restrictions on San Pedro Street:

Lopez reported that the Union Rescue Mission asked the LAPD to help with the issue of drug dealers and addicts using the Mission to evade police, by running into the Mission daily.

Lopez informed the Board that another issue on San Pedro is individuals dealing drugs in the trees on San Pedro. The trees are extremely full and need to be trimmed; however, The City of Los Angeles does not have the funds for tree trimming. The trees used to be trimmed every fourteen years, but now every 35 years due to the budget deficit.

Lopez shared that a man was observed throwing drugs down in bundles from a tree on San Pedro. LAPD was called, and the man climbed to a LADWP pole. The LADWP cut branches off of the tree in order to get the man down. He was arrested, taken to the psych ward, and released. The next day the same man was in the tree once again, but this time was caught with dope in his possession and was arrested.

Lopez stated that she is working with the City to locate other resources for tree trimming, because the overgrown trees have become a public safety issue. The trees also block lighting and there's no visibility.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

August Board Meeting:

Lopez suggested that the Board go dark for the month of August due to various members on vacation. The Board members present agreed. The next regular Board meeting will be in September.

Annual Meeting:

Lopez reminded the Board that the annual meeting will take place on September 16th at Inner City Arts. The meeting will begin at 8:30am.

Ken's Market:

Lopez informed the Board that she testified against Ken's Market located at 7th & Kohler Streets at a public hearing. The market's license was grandfathered in; therefore there are very few restrictions. Representatives from Para los Niño's and Inner City Arts also testified against the market. Para los Niño's testified that their students are fearful to walk to Inner City Arts because of the people who loiter around the market.

CCEA utilized its district mapping system to map out the incidents associated with the market, and presented a poster-sized version to the zoning administrator. Mancia informed the Board that the incidents were broken down according to radius, hours of operation, and types of incidents.

IDA Conference:

Lopez informed the Board that the International Downtown Association (IDA) contacted her regarding the District Mapping System. The IDA would like CCEA to provide a presentation regarding the system, how it works, and the types of data that is captured, as well as how it has helped the BID. The annual conference this year is in Fort Worth, Texas.

VII. NEW BUSINESS-

Vert expressed that the new BID Updates are excellent and provide a clear picture of the BID's activities, challenges, and victories.

Rauch stated that he used the BID Update in his managers meeting.

Lopez informed the Board that the goal is to email the updates weekly. Lopez thanked King and the staff for creating the updates.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 12:36pm.